

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058508

EXDIS - FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT:CABLE HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH 7

1. RHODESIAN ATTACK ON ZAMBIA: RHODESIAN SOURCES SAY ITS FORCES SURPRISED AN INSURGENT RAIDING PARTY AND KILLED 38 TROOPS AS THEY ENTERED RHODESIA. THE RHODESIANS SAY THEY CROSSED 100 YARDS INTO ZAMBIAN TERRITORY, BLEW UP A CACHE OF AMMUNITION, AND RETURNED. (LOU)

2. ZAMBIA: KAUNDA WARNS OF RETALIATION: ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID RHODESIAN PLANES USED NAPALM IN YESTERDAY'S AERIAL ATTACKS AGAINST SOUTHERN ZAMBIA, AND WARNED THAT IF THE ATTACKS CONTINUED, ZAMBIA WOULD RETALIATE. (CONF/EXDIS)

3. ISRAEL: WEIZMAN THREATENS RESIGNATION: THE ISRAELI MEDIA PROMINENTLY FEATURE DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN'S THREAT
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TO RESIGN FROM THE CABINET IF SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES
RESUME IN THE WEST BANK DURING HIS U.S. VISIT (LOU)

4. DAYAN: SELF-RULE FOR OCCUPIED LANDS? MOSHE DAYAN TOLD A CLOSED MEETING OF HIS SUPPORTERS THAT ISRAEL MIGHT UNILATERALLY GRANT SELF-RULE TO THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP, EVEN IF PEACE TALKS REMAIN STALLED. BEGIN

CALLED THE PROPOSAL DAYAN'S PRIVATE OPINION (LOU).

5. MALTA HOLDS OUT ON CSCE: IN VALLETTA, MALTA HAS TURNED A DEAF EAR TO BRITISH AND ITALIAN PLEAS FOR A COMPROMISE ON ITS PROPOSAL FOR A POST-BELGRADE COMMITTEE TO STUDY POLITICAL AND SECURITY ISSUES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. WHILE PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF MAY YET BE BROUGHT AROUND, HE WOULD BE IN CHARACTER FORCING AN IMPASSE AT BELGRADE. (CONFIDENTIAL)

6. ETHIOPIA RECONSIDERS U.S. AID OFFERS: A STRONG RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY TO RE-ESTABLISH U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROJECTS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE DIRG TODAY. (CONFIDENTIAL).

7. ETHIOPIA STANDS FIRM ON THE OGADEN: RETURNING FROM DISCUSSIONS IN LAGOS ON THE OGADEN WAR, THE DIRG'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXPERT, MAJOR BERHANU, CRITICIZED THE OAU FOR ITS FAILURE TO CONDEMN SOMALI AGGRESSION OR TO WORK FOR SOMALI MILITARY WITHDRAWAL. BERHANU DID SPEAK OF REGIONAL AUTONOMY IN THE OGADEN, ONCE SOMALIA WITHDRAWS AND COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES HAS BEEN DECIDED AT PEACE TALKS. (LOU)

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